1 SEP 1950

Llanwrtyd Wells Urban Council

Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1949.

Officials

Medical Officer of Health...T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector.....Mr.J.D.Miles, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., (part of year)

Mr.E.C.Melton, M.S.I.A., (part of year)

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b28856910

Llanwrtyd Wells Urban District

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1949.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Llanwrtyd Wells Urban District for the year 1949.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health in Circular 2/50 (Wales).

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Statistical Summary for the year 1949.

Area.....1673 acres.
Population (Census 1931).....742.
Population (estimated at Midsummer 1949).....682.
Number of inhabited houses.....195.

Live Births	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 pop.
Legitimate	4	4	8	
Illegitimate	0	0	0	
	4	4	8	11.7
Still Births.	0	0	0	0.
Deaths from all causes.	5	8	13	19.0

Maternal deaths.....Nil.

Deaths under 1 year
.....1. Rate per 1000 live births.....125

Deaths from special causes;
Infectious disease.....Nil.
Tuberculosis respiratory system.....Nil.
Other tuberculous disease.....Nil.
Cancer.....Two.

Area.

The Urban District of Llanwrtyd Wells forms part of the County of Brecon and is situated in the northern part of the County. The surrounding country is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the inhabitants. The Urban District is a well known holiday resort where advantage is taken of the medicinal springs in the locality.

Population. Census 1931.....742.

1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.
1024.	1143.	1000.	870.	912.	830.	632.	618.	640.	682.

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years and apply only to the civilian population. It would appear that the population has dropped considerably since the last census was taken.

Llanwrtyd Wells Urban District

The number of inhabited houses was 195, giving an average number of 3.5 persons per house.

Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate.
1938			3	4.5.
1939			4	6.2.
1940	4	3	7	6.8.
1941	4	1	5	4.4.
1942	2	2	4	4.0.
1943	3	1	4	4.5.
1944	2	3	5	4.5.
1945	5	4	9	10.8.
1946	3	2	5	7.9.
1947	3	5	8	12.9.
1948	5	3	8	12.5.
1949	4	4	8	11.7.
England and Wales, 1949				16.7.

It will be observed that the birthrate for the year under review was considerably lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Deaths.

After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst the residents of the district is shown in the following table,

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate.
1938			5	7.5.
1939			13	18.4.
1940	10	5	15	14.6.
1941	6	6	12	10.5.
1942	6	5	11	11.0.
1943	6	9	15	17.2.
1944	7	4	11	12.0.
1945	7	5	12	14.4.
1946	2	6	8	12.6.
1947	7	4	11	17.7.
1948	4	6	10	15.6.
1949	5	8	13	19.0.
England and Wales, 1949				11.7.

The deathrate for 1949 was therefore higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Still Births. There was no still birth registered during the year.

Infantile Mortality. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. The rate is calculated per 1000 live births. There was one death registered in children of under one year of age during the year, giving a rate of 125.

England and Wales, 1949 ..... 34.

Llanwrtyd Wells Urban District.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males....5. Females....8.

Cause.	Males.	Females.
Cancer buccal cavity or oesophagus	1	0.
Cancer all other sites	1	0.
Intracranial vascular lesions	0	1.
Heart disease	3	5.
Violent causes	0	2.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

ILLEGITIMACY. There were no illegitimate births registered in the district during the year.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. There was no death during the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Certain changes occurred in your public health officers during the year. In September Mr.Miles left to take up another appointment and Mr.E.C. Melton was appointed as your Sanitary officer. He commenced duties in October and remained until the end of the year.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth, Builth and Brecon. The laboratory of the Public Analyst for the County at Carmarthen was available for water samples whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff.
The milk sampling laboratories under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme were situated at Builth Wells and Brecon.

Ambulance Facilities. As a result of the new National Health Service Act, 1946, certain changes were operative in the arrangements existing for the conveyance of sick persons in the district. The County Council were responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and made use of the existing St.John's ambulance for general use while ambulances from Merthyr Isolation Hospital conveyed patients suffering from infectious disease to hospital.

Home Nursing. Under the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by various district nursing associations were whole time employees of the County Council and district nursing associations, as such, ceased to function.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, administered by the County Council, are held regularly at the War Memorial Institute. Facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, immunisation, dental,eye and orthopaedic defects are available at the County Health Offices.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provide by the local hospital at Builth Wells.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease and these conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of smallpox cases arrangements have been made by the County Council with Aberdare for beds at the Fedw Hir Hospital.

Disinfection. The methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying.

SECTION 3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare, immunisation, dental, eye and orthopaedic treatment. Provision is also made for the supply of free and cheap rate milk and medicinal foods. The supervision of midwives, child life protection and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is also the responsibility of the County Council.

SECTION 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supply. Water supplied to the district is derived from five sources, as follows :-

Nant-llegdwial Brook. Water is taken from the stream, which drains upland peaty land used for sheep grazing, and is passed to a small storage reservoir holding 220,000 gallons. From this reservoir (known as Waun-coli) the water is discharged, via a floating arm ball valve control, over a gravity sand filter bed. The main trunk to the town connects this filter to Victoria Service reservoir.

Nant Gyrnant Brook. This is a tributary supply taken directly from the brook, which drains simular land to Nant-llegdwial, and is passed into the main trunk Waun-coli - Victoria Service reservoir without treatment. This supply is only used during drought periods or when due to influx of visitors the other sources are inadequate for the needs of the population.

Victoria Level. Here a well sunk in the end of a heading about 60 yards long into the hillside overflows on the artesian principle and the water is retained by a small dam at the entrance to the heading. It is supplemented by some water percolating through the roof of the heading. This water is passed via a small collecting chamber into the Victoria Service reservoir.

Victoria Springs. A land spring above Victoria Service reservoir is piped into the collecting chamber mentioned above.

Ffos Fign. Water is derived from a number of land springs, piped to a collecting chamber which is connected to the Loft-wen Service reservoir.

The water from both service reservoirs ultimately intermix in the distribution pipes.

The general condition of water installations is unsatisfactory. Due to the waters action on metal all water mains, hydrants and control valves are encrusted to such an extent that in a number of places the bore of the 3" main is reduced to 1¾". The Waun-coli storage reservoir is badly cracked and can only be filled to half of its depth and due to its inaccessibility, I doubt whether its repair would be an economic proposition. For simular reasons and the lack os suitable labour the filter beds have not been cleaned for about 10 years and undoubtedly their efficiency is greatly reduced.

Quality. Physical Characteristics. Clear, bright, well aerated, very soft.

Bacteriological Nature. Main supply from Waun-coli showed evidence of slight pollution. Ffos-fign supply is satisfactory.

Llanwrtyd Wells Urban District.

Quantity. During the months of July, August and September supplies from Ffos-fign and Victoria Level were considerably reduced and it was necessary to turn off the towns supply from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. During these months no appreciable rainfall occurred whilst the population of the district was increased to about 2,000 due to the influx of visitors.

Some complaints were received, from premises in the higher parts of the town, of poor pressure. This was attributed to the reduced bore of the main supply pipes (encrusted) and the low level of the water in the Loft-Wen Service reservoir.

Number of samples taken for Bacteriological examination..... 2.

No samples were taken for chemical analysis.

No samples were taken to determine the plumbo-solvent action of the water.

No action was taken in respect of any contamination other than the routine cleansing of tanks and reservoirs and the maintenance of fences surrounding reservoir.

Number of dwelling houses connected to public supply.....185.
Estimated population supplied.....550.
Number of houses supplied by stand pipes.....Nil.
Number of private supplies.....14.
Population supplied by private supplies.....90.

Results of water samples taken 23rd June, 1949.
No.1.Taken from Waun-coli reservoir.
No.2.Taken from Waun coli Ffos-fign supply.

	No.1.	No.2.
Number of organisms per cc developed on Agar during 48 hours at 37°C	9	2.
Number of organisms per cc developed on Agar during 48 hours at 22°C	88	17.
Coliform organisms per 100 ccs	12	Nil.
Faecal Coli per 100 ccs	Nil	Nil.

Remarks. No.1. The presence of Coliform organisms is a suspicous feature, but the fact that they are of non-faecal origin would indicate that no pollution of a serious nature is taking place.
No.2. The bacteriological condition of this water is Highly Satisfactory

A scheme for an improved supply to the district was considered during the year and it is hoped that there will be as little delay as possible in bringing this scheme to completion as, in my opinion, the district is not adequately served as regards quantity under the present system whilst the methods used to ensure purity could definitely be improved.

Number of visits of inspection made.....97.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage dsiposal works, constructed in 1932, consists of two screening chambers and detritus tanks, storm water overflow and storm water tank, two vertical flow sedimentation tanks, automatic dosing chamber, two rotary filter beds, two horizontal flow humus tanks and six sludge drying beds.
On the whole this system worked satisfactory during the year.

Number of visits of inspection made.....21.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the collection and disposal of house refuse. This is collected by a contractor in the district and disposed of by tipping. There is a definite need for improvement in the methods used for disposal.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector. The following details give information relating to the work of the sanitary inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....78.
Number of complaints investigated.....78.
Number of premises inspected.....57.
Number of preliminary notices served.....11.
Number of abatement notices served.....0.

Houses let in lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There was no offensive trade in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. No common lodging houses exist in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of inspections made by sanitary inspector.....13.
Number of notices served.....2.

Shops.

Number of inspections made by sanitary inspector.....53.
Number of notices served.....0.

Factories.

Number of factories in the district.....7.
Number of visits of inspection made.....28.
Number of notices served.....0.
Number defects found.....0.

Camping Sites. Ther are no recognised camping sites in the district.

Eradication of bedbugs and steps taken to combat infestation.

No premises were found to be verminous during the year.

Rodent Control. This work is performed by a Council workman.

Number of premises inspected.....70.
Number found infested.....16.
Number of rats killed (Estimated).....83.

The sewers were also treated during May of the year, when no baits were taken.

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken by the Council during the year.

Llanwrtyd Wells Urban District

Section 5. Housing.

There was no appreciable difference in the housing conditions in the district during the year. The Council had under consideration the building of council houses during the year but at the end of the year, this had progressed no further than the planning stage. No private enterprise houses were built during the year.

It appears that the building of houses is closely linked with the need for improvement in the water supply.

Section 6. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk. National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme.

On 1st. October the Milk and Dairies Act, 1944 came into producers operation, under this Act the registration and supervision of milk// became the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Council is left with the registration and supervision of milk distributors. The results of samples taken during the year are shown below:-

Number of visits made to cowsheds and dairies.....52.
Number of sample results received during the year.....54.
Number of samples in Category A.....46.
Number of samples in Category C.....8.

Meat. There is no slaughterhouse in the district and meat is supplied to the district from the Ministry of Food Slaughtering Point at Builth Wells.
No meat was condemned in the district by the sanitary inspector, during the year. 2 tins of foodstuffs and 18 lbs. of cheese were however condemned.

Other Foods.

Food Preparation Rooms. Including Bakehouses.

Number of inspections made by sanitary inspector.....16.

Ice Cream Premises. In view of the occurrence of infectious disease caused by ice cream twenty visits of inspection were made by the sanitary inspector.

Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made by sanitary inspector.....8.
Number of notices served by sanitary inspector.....1.

Section 7 Prevalence and control of Infectious Disease.

The following cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year.

Erysipelas.....1 case.
Acute Lobar Pneumonia....2 cases.
Whooping Cough.....6 cases.
Measles.....1 case.

None of these cases were removed to hospital, and none proved fatal.
Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of such cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Llanwrtyd Wells Urban District

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....5.
Number of fresh cases notified during the year.....0.
Number of cases removed as deceased.....0.
Number of cases remaining on register at end of year.....5.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below;

1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.
1.	2.	4.	1.	1.	0.	1.	1.	0.	0.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

No case of diphtheria occurred in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health.